

OCTOBER 2003 IRP E-NEWS

Brought to You by the Idaho Rural Partnership

Welcome – In an effort to share information among our many partners, the Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) will be distributing an electronic newsletter on a monthly basis in addition to the printed quarterly newsletter. If you have items that you would like included please email us at info@irp.state.id.us.

Idaho Rural Summit – Make plans today to attend the Idaho Rural Summit in Coeur d'Alene on November 18-19. The event will bring together experts in many of the areas where rural Idaho needs to be focusing energy to flourish in the future. These experts will cover a variety of topics including economic development, infrastructure, technology and education. Speakers include Gov. Kempthorne and Sen. Crapo as well as Craig Nolte of the Federal Reserve Bank. Other reports will be given on Idaho's Long Range Transportation Plan and the Inland Northwest Economic Adjustment Strategy. Success stories from Bonners Ferry, Council and Twin Falls will be featured. Registration can be completed on line at www.idahosbdc.org. Idaho Rural Summit registration, including all meals and speakers, is \$75 and the registration deadline is October 24. Call the Coeur d'Alene Resort today at 800-688-5253 to reserve your room at the great IRP nightly rate of \$56 (economy) or \$89 (upgrade). Reservations must be made by October 17 or market rates will be charged.

IRP Committee Meetings – We're in full swing with the following IRP committee meetings scheduled – Education (October 6 and 23), Outreach (October 10) and Leadership (October 27). The Education Committee meeting this week focused on building youth entrepreneurial skills and highlighted existing secondary and post secondary programs such as Idaho Business Week, Business Professionals of America and FFA. The Education Committee will meet again on October 23. Meeting summaries and recommendations from these groups will be presented at the November 18th IRP Board meeting in Coeur d'Alene. We'll keep you posted as the Economic Development, Environmental, Finance and Policy committees come together. If you are willing to serve on an IRP committee please contact us at 208/334-3131 or info@irp.state.id.us.

Economic Advisory Council Meeting - The Idaho Economic Advisory Council will meet in Moscow on October 16 – 17. The Council will conduct numerous items of business including review applications for Rural Development Block Grants from Teton County and Gem County. Other agenda items include a policy discussion, review of upcoming Mexico Trade Mission, and a panel discussion on North Idaho Economic Development. For more information contact Idaho Department of Commerce at 208/334-2470 or www.idoc.state.id.us.

IWG Transportation Meeting - The second annual Director's Forum of the Interagency Working Group (IWG) for Public Transportation will be held on Tuesday, October 21. IWG is directed by Idaho Code to bring about greater efficiencies and coordination among all agencies using public funds for transportation services. The Forum will be held

from 11 am – 1 pm in the Joe R. Williams Office Building in Boise. Contact Anita Jausoro to RSVP or for additional details at ajausoro@itd.state.id.us or 334-8875.

Regional Rural Economic Summit – Folks in north-central Idaho and south-east Idaho are working together to host a Region II Economic Development Summit on November 12th in Lewiston. The Summit will develop partnerships that increase regional collaboration to strategically utilize resources and technology in building economic development efforts. For more info contact Chris Kuykendall with the Clearwater Economic Development Association at 208/746-0015 or chrisk2@lewiston.com.

NW Regional Rural Health Conference – The 17th annual northwest regional rural health conference will be held on March 25 – 26, 2004 in Spokane. Conference organizers have put out a call for presentations with an October 31 deadline. For more information contact Conference Chair Peter House at 206/685-3676 or ahec@wsu.edu.

Governor's Housing Conference – The Governor's Housing Conference sponsored by the Idaho Housing and Finance Association wrapped up today in Boise. One panel was dedicated to IRP and we appreciate the willingness of Priscilla Salant (University of Idaho), Jay Engstrom (Department of Commerce) and Roni Atkins (USDA Rural Development) to present current information.

Show Me The Money - There is now a weekly bulletin of a wide variety of funding opportunities provided by the Idaho Department of Commerce. Past issues of the bulletin may be found at <http://www.idoc.state.id.us/idcomm/comdev/funding.html>. To receive 'Show Me the Money' on a weekly basis send an email to jmiller@idoc.state.id.us.

Community Collaboration Grants Awarded – Governor Kempthorne has announced funding of 41 projects totaling \$188,150 awarded to eighteen communities across the state as part of his Generation of the Child initiative. The Community Collaboration projects address a variety of topics such as developing opportunities for parent education, improving literacy, reducing gang violence, increasing immunization rates, expanding after-school programs, accessing infant-toddler programs and enhancing opportunities for teen mentoring. The Contracts of up to \$5,000 each were awarded through a competitive process. The projects receiving awards also had to demonstrate how their project is collaboration between organizations, businesses, government and schools. Funds for the Community Collaboration Contracts are received by the state each year from the federal Department of Health and Human Services' Temporary Assistance for Needy Family & Children program. IRP Executive Director Sara Braasch was a member of the Review Committee and was extremely impressed with the quality of projects and partnerships formed across the State.

Idaho Preferred™ Launched - The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's has launched a new identity and promotion program for Idaho food and agriculture. Idaho Preferred is now accepting applications to participate in the program. Participation information and applications are posted at www.idahopreferred.com. For information, contact Peter Mundt, Idaho Preferred program manager, at 208-332-8684 or

pmundt@idahoag.us.

Wireless Phones for Non Profits - The U.S. Cellular giving program supports nonprofit organizations that improve the quality of life in communities where the company has a solid business presence. The program provides monetary donations and free wireless phones and service to projects in the following categories: civic and community, education, health and human service, environment, and arts and culture. Requests for funding are reviewed quarterly. Go to the following website for more info - www.uscc.com/uscellular/SilverStream/Pages/a_charitable.html#target

USDA Value-Added Producer Grants Available - The USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) is accepting applications for the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development Grant Program. RBS will make available \$27.7 million in competitive grant funds for fiscal year 2003 to help independent agricultural producers enter into value-added activities. RBS requests proposals for one of the following two activities: (1) Developing feasibility studies or business plans (including marketing plans or other planning activities) needed to establish a viable value-added marketing opportunity for an agricultural product; or (2) acquiring working capital to operate a value-added business venture or an alliance that will allow the producers to better compete in domestic and international markets. The maximum award per grant is \$500,000. Priority is also being given to projects producing energy from biomass or demonstrating profitable use of innovative technologies. Applications must be completed and submitted to the Idaho USDA Rural Development office as soon as possible, but no later than October 20, 2003. Contact Dale Lish, USDA Rural Development at (208) 785-5840, ext. 118, or dale.lish@id.usda.gov.